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Title : Regarding first open heart surgery performed at Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (MANDI): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak. I would like to inform the House that first time in the history of Himachal Pradesh open heart surgery was performed in our Government hospital, Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla, recently.

A 16-member team - headed by All India Institute of Medical Science Director, Dr. Venugopal and IGMC Cardiology Department's Dr. Rajneesh Pathania and Dr. R.S. Kanwar as part of the team − performed the surgery.

Though doctors, nurses and other para medical staff from IGMC underwent three months training at AIIMS it will take some time for IGMC doctors and staff to perform open heart surgery independently.

I thank the Central Government and the Health Ministry for this and request the Health Minister to provide full help to the IGMC doctors of the State till they are trained enough to perform open heart surgery. With this facility at IGMC, Shimla, poor patients of the State will be benefited. The cost of heart surgery at IGMC will be much less than anywhere else in the country[R46].

Even the charges, which are taken by the private hospitals, are very high. Again I would like to thank Dr. Venugopal for making all his efforts as he came all the way to perform open-heart surgery in our hospital.

With these words, I would like to thank the Government also.